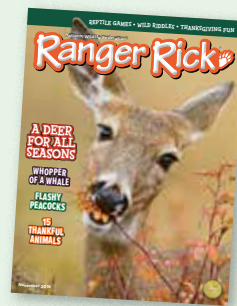




Ranger Rick

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



EDUCATIONAL EXTENSIONS FOR THE NOVEMBER 2016 ISSUE OF RANGER RICK® MAGAZINE

WHITETAIL HABITAT

After reading “**Deer Through the Year**,” pages 6–11, ask students to help you list basic habitat requirements of white-tailed deer. Results may include:

- **Water**
- **Food:** Leaves, grasses, grains, fruit, acorns and other nuts, buds, twigs, bark
- **Shelter/Cover:** Woodlands, grasses, shrubs; swamps and conifer forests during harsh winters
- **Room to Roam**

As a class, visit a nearby wild habitat (if possible, one where white-tailed deer live). Have students work in pairs to complete the “Could Deer Live Here?” student pages. Then gather the group together and discuss the following:

- What sources of water did you find?
- What foods could white-tailed deer eat here?
- Where would they find cover?
- Is there enough water, food, and cover to survive?
- What about room to roam?
- Is this a good habitat for white-tailed deer?

PICTURE THESE PEACOCKS

Did your students enjoy reading “**Razzle-Dazzle Bird**,” pages 14–19? More peacock stories await them on the “Peacock Tales,” student page. Encourage students to read the stories and illustrate each in the spaces provided.

THANK YOU, WILDLIFE!

As a class, read “**Thankful Animals**,” pages 30–35. Then ask students to think of other things that the animals in the article might be thankful for.

Next, tell students they are going to explore reasons *they should be thankful for animals*. Divide students

into small groups. Assign each group an animal (see suggestions below) and ask: “How does your animal help our planet?” Instruct groups to do research on their animals, discuss possible answers to the question, and report their conclusions to the class.

Here is a list of suggested animals:

- **Beavers:** (Their dams help prevent floods and droughts.)
- **Squirrels:** (They bury seeds and nuts to stockpile for winter. Some of these germinate and grow into plants and trees.)
- **Birds:** (Their digestive tracts can’t break down seeds, so they deposit whole seeds on the ground in their feces. The seeds germinate and grow plants.)
- **Bison:** (As they walk along grassy plains, their hooves break up soil and press plant seeds into the ground. And their manure fertilizes the seeds they “plant.”)
- **Bats:** (Many eat pesky insects and others pollinate plants.)
- **Mussels, oysters, and/or clams:** (They help clean the ocean by ingesting pollutants and sending the filtered water back into the sea.)

MORE ON REPTILES

If students liked learning about reptiles in the **Just for Fun games section**, pages 37–39, they will also like Ranger Rick’s new *Reptiles* book. It offers an up-close look at reptiles’ amazing senses; tricky defenses; and wide variety of strategies for moving around, catching and eating food, and bearing young. For more information visit online at <https://www.nwf.org/Kids/Shop/Books/Ages-7-Older.aspx>.

COULD A DEER LIVE HERE?



Use the following list to help you decide if white-tailed deer could survive in your current location.

1 Habitat Description (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farm field | <input type="checkbox"/> Pond |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meadow | <input type="checkbox"/> Stream or river |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young forest | <input type="checkbox"/> City |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mature forest | <input type="checkbox"/> Town |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland | <input type="checkbox"/> Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake | <input type="checkbox"/> Other(s): _____ |

2 Water

List sources (pond, lake, river, stream, etc.):

Does there seem to be enough drinking water? (Check one.)

☐ Yes ☐ No

3 Food

Check best answer for each:

• Leaves and twigs

☐ None or very little ☐ Some ☐ Lots

• Berries and fruit

☐ None or very little ☐ Some ☐ Lots

• Nuts and acorns

☐ None or very little ☐ Some ☐ Lots

• Grasses and grains

☐ None or very little ☐ Some ☐ Lots

• Crops (corn, soybeans, etc.)

☐ None or very little ☐ Some ☐ Lots

COULD A DEER LIVE HERE?

3 Food (continued)

Describe any other food sources:

Does there seem to be enough food? (Check one.)

☐ Yes ☐ No

4 Cover

List sources of cover for:

- **Fawn protection.**

- **Hiding from predators.**

- **Winter or rainy weather.**

Does there seem to be enough cover? (Check one.)

☐ Yes ☐ No

5 Room to Roam

Does this habitat seem to provide enough space for deer to roam? (Check one.)

☐ Yes ☐ No

6 Your Overall Rating

How would you rate this habitat's ability to provide enough: (1) water, (2) food, (3) cover, and (4) space for a white-tailed deer to survive? (Check one.)

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

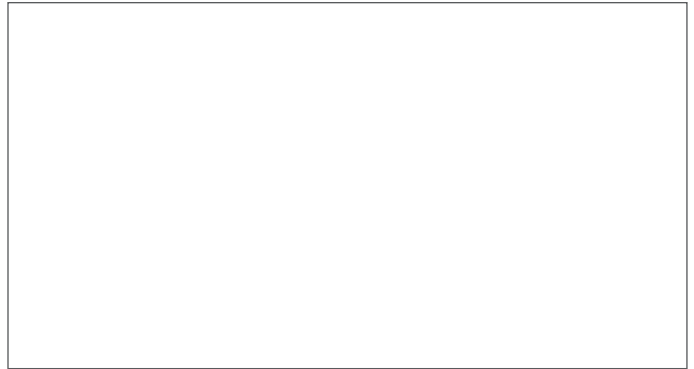


FUNNY PEACOCK TALES

Below are three true stories about peacocks. Read each one. In the box next to each story, draw a funny illustration to go with it.

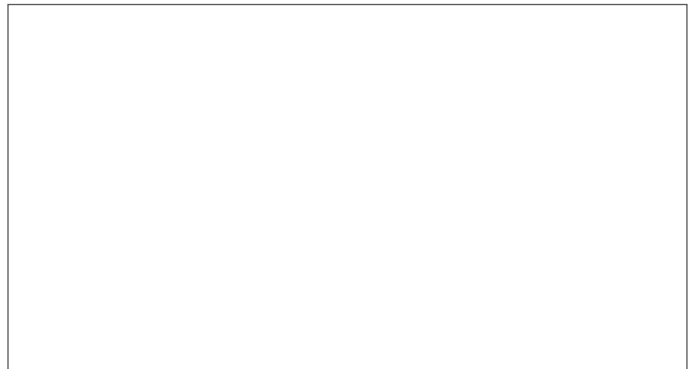
WHO'S THE OWNER?

A pet peacock named Anderson was "birdnapped." Later, his owners proved he was their bird. How? When they held peanuts in their teeth, Anderson came running to them, just as they trained him to do!



TERRIBLE TENOR

Joan Cole's family raised peacocks in Cheyenne, Wyoming. One summer night she got a call from some neighbors. They had been listening to music when suddenly it started to sound just awful. Then they found a peacock singing along outside their open window!



YOU'VE BEEN "CARPECKED"!

Male peacocks that live near houses sometimes peck at their reflections in windows. Why? Because they think they see another male bird to fight with. Once in a while, they even peck at shiny cars. An angry peacock can make a new car look like a wreck—covered with dents and scratches!

